

MINUTES OF
FAUQUIER COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE
October 31, 2012
7:00 P.M.

2nd Floor Conference Room – Warren Green Building
10 Hotel Street
Warrenton, VA 20186

Members Present: Peter S. Eltringham, Chairman, Adrienne Garreau, John Green, Matthew Sheedy and Roy Tate

Members Absent: Ed Moore, Vice Chairman, R. Holder Trumbo, Tony Tedeschi and Jeffrey Walker

Guests Present: Sergeant Wines, Sheriff's Department

Staff Present: Susan Eddy and Meredith Meixner

1. Approval of September 26, 2012 Committee Meeting Minutes

ACTION: On motion made by John Green and seconded by Adrienne Garreau, it was moved to approve the September 26, 2012 Committee Meeting minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

2. Morgansburg Road (Route 653) – Various Requests

Mrs. Eddy provided a brief history of the request.

Mr. Green agreed this road has many curves and is narrow making it dangerous for pedestrians. He expressed his support for lowering the speed limit.

Mr. John Gouldthorpe, resident along Morgansburg Road, stated that two separate fatalities happened on the same curve close to Route 17. Mr. Gouldthorpe further stated he no longer moves farm machinery on Morgansburg Road due to the speeding and passing cars. He also described this road as a cut-through between Rt. 17 and the Culpeper area.

A citizen suggested adding school bus stop signs near the curve where there are approximately six stops. Mr. Eltringham replied that staff could forward the request to the School Transportation Division after consulting with the residents as to where the signs should be placed.

Sgt. Wines offered to place the new radar box out for three days to count the vehicles and record their speed.

Mr. Tate reported there were 190 vehicles per day and no accidents reported between 2008 and 2010. He agreed to do a new study and pull together data from the Sheriff's Department.

Mrs. Eddy agreed to discuss the school bus signs with the School Transportation Division.

Another citizen suggested adding an additional fine when speeding tickets are issued as an incentive for drivers to slow down. Mrs. Eddy explained that there are specific criteria for these types of zones and most are placed on the edges of towns or densely populated areas.

Mr. Eltringham asked VDOT to bring to the next meeting the criteria for additional fine and no through truck areas to educate the committee.

A citizen informed the committee that a tractor sign is also missing near Savannah Branch Road. Mr. Tate agreed to have it replaced.

ACTION: VDOT will replace the missing tractor sign; and perform a new traffic study, including data from the Sheriff's Department and report back to the Transportation Committee within 60 – 90 days. Staff will coordinate the request of school bus stop signs with the School Transportation Division.

3. *Ensors Shop Road (Route 637) – Various Requests*

Mrs. Eddy reviewed the citizen requests asking for the speed to be reduced to 35 mph and other traffic calming measures.

Mr. Luther Keys, resident on Ensors Shop Road, explained this road is used as a cut-through; and is very dangerous when he walks and cleans up trash about three days a week. He has witnessed accidents at the 20 mph curve near his house.

Mr. Carl Mullins, resident on Ensors Shop Road near Oak Grove Baptist Church, stated the 35 mph advisory signs are placed on the curves near the church and drivers ignore them. He explained it is difficult to get out of his driveway due to the cars speeding around the curves and using farm equipment is dangerous.

Sgt. Wines offered to send deputies to do a team assignment along that road. Mr. Eltringham asked if he would place the radar box to obtain a three day count of the vehicles and record their speed.

Mr. Tate agreed to look for a previous study, pull accident data and obtain speed results from the Sheriff's Department.

ACTION: The Sheriff's Department will place their radar box on Ensors Shop Road and provide the data to VDOT within thirty days. VDOT will research previous studies, pull accident data and report back to the Transportation Committee at the November meeting.

4. *Route 29/O'Keefe Road/Oak Shade Road (Route 661) – John Green*

Mr. Green shared that there have been three fatalities at this intersection during the seven years he has lived on O'Keefe Road and is disturbed by the lack of manners in drivers these days. He stated that Route 29 southbound traffic is difficult to see from the intersection of O'Keefe Road with the power poles lined up looking north along Rt. 29. Mr. Green would like to see improvements for visibility.

Mr. Tate offered to look for possible recommendations made from a previous corridor study on intersections along Rt. 29.

Mr. Tate stated that there was one accident on the data he pulled up to 2010. Mr. Green replied that there were two fatalities since then. Mrs. Eddy agreed to obtain current accident data from the Sheriff's Department.

ACTION: VDOT will research previous Route 29 corridor studies for any recommendations on the intersection of O'Keefe Road and staff will obtain current accident data from the Sheriff's Department for the November meeting.

5. *Northern Virginia Transportation Alliance Update – Ed Moore*

The committee agreed to postpone discussion on this item until Mr. Moore is present.

6. *Staff Update*

- ***Old Waterloo Road***

Mrs. Eddy summarized the meeting she attended with Supervisor Schwartz, Jim Utterback, Director of VDOT's Culpeper District, and Chris McDonald, the Acting Regional Traffic Director. VDOT agreed to perform a new study and meet with the community. Mr. Eltringham confirmed with Mrs. Eddy that the committee will be able to review the study before it is made public. Mr. Tate added that VDOT is using an independent consultant to perform the study.

- ***Super NoVa Study***

Mrs. Eddy shared that the study is near completion and requested the consultants add a description to the VRE Remington section along with correcting other errors. She continued that the study will be given to the Secretary of Transportation who had made the initial request and from there it might go to the CTB.

- ***Opal Service District Plan***

Mrs. Eddy gave a brief update on the Opal Steering Committee meetings and since Rick Carr's retirement, the group has decided to do transportation modeling based on a larger service district. At a later point, it will be provided to the Transportation Committee for review.

Ms. Garreau asked if the committee could have an industry expert attend a future meeting to discuss the criteria, possible location and viability of a truck stop in Opal. Mrs. Eddy agreed to look into finding a qualified expert.

- ***New Baltimore Committee***

Mr. Eltringham stated the New Baltimore Committee will most likely have draft recommendations ready for the Transportation Committee to review at the January meeting.

- ***Markham Rest Area***

Mrs. Eddy informed the committee that Supervisor Schwartz will be attending the next meeting to discuss the rest area.

- ***Halfway Road***

Mr. Eltringham announced that VDOT has provided a draft study and has agreed to meet with staff prior to stamping it approved. This draft study recommends extending the 35 mph speed limit.

7. Citizens' Time

Ms. Julie Wickham asked for an update on the Bealeton school zone request. Mrs. Eddy agreed to contact the School Transportation Division and get back to Ms. Wickham. She further thanked the Sheriff's Department for increased presence in the Bealeton area.

8. Other Items

Mr. Eltringham suggested the committee review and discuss the County's current Interstate and Primary Six Year Plans at the January meeting.

Mr. Green inquired whether VDOT will make further repairs on O'Keefe Road. Mr. Tate responded that the contractor did preliminary repairs and indicated they will communicate with him when finished.

Mr. Green asked what could be done to deter trucks from pulling off onto private property in Opal. After discussion, the committee agreed the owner would have to take steps to prevent the trucks from using the lot and leaving garbage.

Mr. Tate stated that the advisory signs were placed at Blantyre Road and school bus stop signs were approved to be placed on Route 245.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:52 p.m.

The next meeting will be held on **Wednesday, November 28, 2012.**